

one years ago, on October 31, 1864, Nevada was admitted into the Union as the 36th State.

I am proud of Nevada's heritage. Native Americans have called Nevada home for thousands of years, evidenced by the spectacular petroglyphs found in our mountain ranges. Pioneers blazed trails across the Nevada frontier and miners discovered lines and lodes of precious minerals that would lead to Nevada's designation as the Silver State. While we honor and maintain our heritage, we also look with excitement at what Nevada has become today.

Every year, we welcome tens of thousands of people from across the Nation who want to make Nevada their home. We are one of the fastest growing States in the country, and all Nevadans, past and present, have made the Battle Born State what it is today. From the glittering lights of The Strip to the quiet strength of the bristlecone pines in the Great Basin, Nevada is a place we are proud to call home. Nevada is the majestic Ruby Mountains, the world-famous Black Rock Desert, magnificent Lake Tahoe, hard-working mining towns, and of course, Las Vegas, the world-class destination where millions of people from all over the world come to visit every year.

From the population centers of Las Vegas and Reno to rural communities that remain the heart of the American west, I have traveled all over the State in my decades-long career as an elected representative, and I am privileged to represent Nevadans here in Washington. Every day, I stand on the Senate floor and do the best I can for the Silver State and all those who call Nevada home.

I stand with my fellow Nevadans to honor our rich history and heritage and look forward to our bright future.

TRIBUTE TO SAM MOORE

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I rise today to pay tribute to the voice of Kentucky agriculture, Mr. Sam Moore. Mr. Moore is retiring as president of the Kentucky Farm Bureau after 7 successful years and will be forever remembered as the Kentucky farmer's greatest advocate.

Mr. Moore, a native of Butler County, first became involved with the Kentucky Farm Bureau in the late 1960s when he joined the Bureau's Young Farmer Program. By 1973 he was selected as Outstanding Young Farmer by the Kentucky Jaycees, and he knew he had found his calling in working with and for his fellow Kentucky farmers.

Mr. Moore has served on the Kentucky Farm Bureau's board of directors since 1975, and will continue to serve in an at-large capacity after his term as president ends. He is also a member of the American Farm Bureau's board of directors, and holds positions on the boards of the Southern Farm Bureau Life Insurance Company

and Farm Bureau BanCorp. He has also served as president of the Kentucky Farm Bureau Mutual Insurance Company.

Mr. Moore has been a leader of the Butler County Farm Bureau and is a member of the American Soybean Association, the Kentucky Beef Cattle Association, and the Kentucky Corn Growers Association. He also serves on the boards of the Kentucky Grain Insurance Fund and the Kentucky Council on Agriculture.

Mr. Moore was elected as the bureau's president in December 1998 after 7 years of service as its first vice president. Immediately upon assuming office, he was faced with a major change in the tobacco farming industry: the leading tobacco companies and the State governments had reached an agreement called the Master Settlement Agreement, which would place significant funds into the various States' treasuries.

Mr. Moore was the driving force behind a bill in Kentucky to allocate half of Kentucky's proceeds from the Master Settlement Agreement—\$3.6 billion over 25 years—into a new State fund that would dedicate the money to projects that develop the State's agriculture market, encourage environmental stewardship, support family farms, and fund agricultural research and development.

The whole process is overseen by the Kentucky Agricultural Development Board, which Mr. Moore has served on since its inception. Thanks to Mr. Moore and the board's efforts, Kentucky's agriculture industry is transforming to meet the needs of more Kentuckians.

But perhaps Mr. Moore's crowning achievement is his pivotal role in engineering the tobacco buyout of 2004. I worked side by side with Mr. Moore in that effort, and can testify that his hard work and dedication to moving that project through was critical to our success.

Thanks to Mr. Moore's efforts, Congress passed and the President signed a tobacco buyout bill that will guarantee \$2.5 billion to Kentucky farmers and their families over the next 10 years. Farmers now have the opportunity to explore other areas of agriculture, free from the restraints the government placed on tobacco farming for so long. Nothing was more important to Sam's Kentucky Farm Bureau members—and so Sam worked long and hard, until he delivered.

Sam is the co-owner of the Green River Feed Mill and also serves as a director of Morgantown Bank & Trust. He farms over 4,300 acres, producing corn, soybeans, wheat, and cattle. He and his gracious wife Helen have six wonderful children.

Sam has dedicated decades of his life to farming and his fellow farmers because he loves farming so much. He has made a lot of friends across the State over the years, and I am proud to be one of them. Any friend of Sam Moore

will tell you he spent his entire career with the Kentucky Farm Bureau thinking only of what was best for his members.

Mr. President, I ask my colleagues to join me in commending Mr. Sam Moore for his years of service to Kentucky.

LOCAL LAW ENFORCEMENT ENHANCEMENT ACT OF 2005

Mr. SMITH. Mr. President, I rise today to speak about the need for hate crimes legislation. Each Congress, Senator KENNEDY and I introduce hate crimes legislation that would add new categories to current hate crimes law, sending a signal that violence of any kind is unacceptable in our society. Likewise, each Congress I have come to the floor to highlight a separate hate crime that has occurred in our country.

On January 7, 2005, Robert Martin, an openly gay man, was found severely beaten at an abandoned school in Ashburn, GA. Before the beating Martin was being taunted about his sexual orientation by the man who later attacked him. The man that attacked Martin is still being sought by police.

I believe that our Government's first duty is to defend its citizens, in all circumstances, from threats to them at home. The Local Law Enforcement Enhancement Act is a major step forward in achieving that goal. I believe that by passing this legislation and changing current law, we can change hearts and minds as well.

DARFUR

Mr. KERRY. Mr. President, we must not lose sight of the devastating humanitarian crisis in Darfur, where some 3000,000 people were killed in the genocide and almost 2 million more forced into displacement camps. While some progress has been made in ending large scale attacks by government forces, daily attacks against civilians and aid workers continue in a climate of lawlessness, and the Khartoum government still has not reined in the Janjaweed militia. Given these circumstances, I remain concerned that the administration has not done enough to bring about a peace agreement in the region.

The African Union soldiers sent to Darfur to date have made some progress in providing much needed protection. However, their mandate and current personnel levels are not sufficient to keep the civilians and aid workers safe. America and the international community should work to ensure that the African Union is able to get more peacekeepers into place, with an expanded mandate that allows them to complete their important work.

I ask unanimous consent to have printed in the RECORD a Christian Science Monitor article from October 25, 2005 describing the current problems Darfur and providing some sensible proposals to solve them.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

[From the Christian Science Monitor, Oct. 25, 2005]

HELP AFRICANS HELP THEMSELVES IN SUDAN
(By Jeremy Barnicle)

WEST DARFUR, SUDAN.—As a white foreigner visiting a displacement camp here, I was greeted with the chant, “khawaja no kwa.” “The foreigners say no,” they sang, meaning international intervention helped curb the violence and ease the suffering in Darfur. The song was a gesture of thanks and respect.

The wealthy world fulfilled the first part of its obligation to the people here when it finally started sending emergency aid over a year ago. The second part of that obligation—helping African Union (AU) soldiers provide security for the 2 million people driven from home by the conflict—would consolidate humanitarian gains in Darfur and, as important, serve as a long-term investment in the stability of the entire continent.

In Darfur, the international community—specifically NATO and the United States—has a unique opportunity to help Africans provide security for their own conflict zones. The village raids have largely subsided, and access for aid workers has improved dramatically in Darfur over the past year, but the countryside is now racked with lawlessness and warlordism. Neither the government of Sudan nor the rebel parties seem able to control the violence.

Within this challenging context, it is critical that Darfurians living in refugee camps start to go home and recover their lives. Peace talks between the government of Sudan and various rebel groups continue in Nigeria, but there is little hope of a durable political agreement in the near future. Meanwhile, the people of Darfur are stuck suffering between no war and no peace.

Their most basic needs are met in displacement camps, but the situation is unsustainable: The longer they are displaced the more expensive it becomes for the international community and the less likely it is that they'll ever get home to rebuild their own communities. Ask a Darfur refugee what she wants and inevitably the answer is “to go home, but only if there is security.”

People will return to Darfur only when they have security assurances they see as credible, and that's where the AU force comes in.

So far, the AU mission in Sudan has surpassed expectations. Displaced women used to be terrified of leaving camps to collect firewood, as armed men would stalk the outskirts of town and prey on them. Now, women can time their trips outside to coincide with AU patrols, which deter assaults. This is a development of which the AU and its backers should be proud.

The problem is that there are currently only about 6,000 AU troops in Darfur, an area the size of Texas. The AU says it plans to ramp that number up to about 12,000 by 2006. That would be too little, too late.

In order to help get Darfurians back home and back on track in safety, the AU would need to hit that 12,000 as soon as possible and be prepared to send at least a few thousand more if necessary. The U.S. and NATO are already providing important logistical and technical support for the AU mission, but standing up this larger force would require a speedy and substantial increase in their financial commitments. The U.S. specifically needs to apply diplomatic pressure to ensure that our allies meet the pledges they have made to the AU.

That commitment is the least the world can do. Consider this comparison. Following the war in Bosnia, the international community secured the country—especially high refugee return areas—by providing more than 18 peacekeepers per thousand Bosnians. In Kosovo, the world came up with 20 peacekeepers per thousand people. In Darfur right now, there is one AU soldier per thousand people, spread over a much larger geographic area. That is disgraceful.

An increased investment in the AU's peacekeeping capability now would also advance a huge shared goal for Africa and the West: to help Africans protect Africans. Several of the continent's conflicts need sustained, legitimate, outside military intervention and history proves that the West is unwilling to commit its own troops in any meaningful way.

Some respected analysts have called for NATO to deploy its own peacekeepers to Darfur. That is an appealing idea, but the fact of the matter is that the government of Sudan will never accept NATO troops on its soil, and their presence could actually further destabilize the region.

An indigenous peacekeeping force legitimized by international support and conforming to international standards is critical to mitigating conflict, enabling humanitarian access, and easing human suffering in Africa.

LIHEAP FUNDING

Mr. CARPER. Mr. President, when I was governor of Delaware I was guided by a principle I learned years ago—if something is worth doing, it's worth paying for.

I served from 1993 to 2001, and we balanced the budget every year I was in office.

The principle of paying for the things that are worth doing is not always easy to follow. In fact, sometimes it's quite difficult.

It's especially difficult when we face the choice of how to fund important programs that we know provide vital services.

The Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program, LIHEAP, is one of these important programs.

I believe that LIHEAP is worth funding and I think it's worth paying for.

And we need to pay for it because we are now in the unfortunate situation of having been saddled with record budget deficits for as far as the eye can see.

Unfortunately, more often than not, the current administration has shown us the opposite of good fiscal leadership. Instead of sticking to the motto, “if it's worth doing, it's worth paying for,” this administration has chosen to cut taxes and increase spending more than any other administration in the past 30 years. The result: record budget deficits and a bleak fiscal outlook.

This administration has turned the largest budget surplus in history into the largest deficits in history.

It is for these reasons that we must consider how to pay for increased funding for this vital program and for others as well.

The Labor, Health and Human Services and Education Appropriations Subcommittee took an important step

toward providing adequate LIHEAP funds by including \$2.183 billion in their fiscal year 2006 committee-reported bill. This represents a small increase over last year's funding levels. This is a good starting point.

However, we know that energy prices are rising and household heating bills will rise accordingly this winter. According to the U.S. Energy Information Administration, consumers who heat their homes with natural gas prices—about 55 percent of U.S. households—are expected to see their heating bills rise by 48 percent this winter. Those who heat with oil will pay 32 percent more, those who heat with propane will pay 30 percent more, and those who heat with electricity will pay 5 percent more.

For that reason, I contacted the Appropriations Committee in September to express the need for increased funding. I urged that they provide \$1.276 billion in emergency LIHEAP funding as part of a comprehensive supplemental appropriations bill to address Hurricane Katrina and the effects it has had on energy production and the cost of energy for U.S. consumers. This additional funding would provide an approximately 60 percent increase over fiscal year 2005 levels.

Unfortunately, we have not yet had the opportunity to consider a Katrina supplemental and during the week of October 24, 2005 we were faced with the choice of how to increase funds for LIHEAP as part of the Labor, Health and Human Services and Education appropriations bill.

I am not comfortable supporting a \$3.1 billion increase in LIHEAP funding if it is not offset by either a reduction in spending or an increase in revenues. I believe that we can increase funds for LIHEAP but I also believe that we need to pay for it.

As a result, I worked with my colleague, Senator BEN NELSON to search for ways to achieve enough savings to pay for additional funding for the LIHEAP program in fiscal year 2006.

Senator NELSON and I filed an amendment on October 26, 2005 to increase LIHEAP funding by \$1.6 billion in fiscal year 2006. This would provide a 73 percent increase in funding over fiscal year 2005 levels. The increase would be offset with \$1.6 billion from three tax provisions that either close tax loopholes or clarify and bring greater consistency to current law. We believe that these offsets are balanced—all three have gained support in the Senate in the past—and we believe that our colleagues could support their use as an offset for the LIHEAP program.

I would like to add even more funding to LIHEAP, but with the offsets Senator NELSON and I were able to identify, we were able to file an amendment that would increase funds by \$1.6 billion.

Unfortunately, we did not have the opportunity to vote on the Carper/Nelson amendment during consideration of the fiscal year 2006 Labor, Health and